

The first of these, found on June 12, 1908, situated in a small bulrush marsh, contained 11 half incubated eggs; the other nest, in a different part of the meadows, held 9 eggs (all fresh) on June 13, 1910, and was placed in a thick cattail marsh. Both sets were collected and are now in the writer's collection, and identification was obtained by seeing the birds at the nests on both occasions.

During the summer of 1909, I failed to find any nests or birds in the meadows, where I searched thoroughly for them, but the foregoing nests and birds rewarded my diligent searches during the years of 1908 and 1910, so the King Rail is still to be regarded as a rare breeder in Philadelphia County — at least in the northeastern part.

VIRGINIA RAIL.—This rail seems to be increasing in northeastern Philadelphia as a summer resident. I stated in 'The Auk,' Vol. XXV, p. 219, that I had only found two nests prior to 1908, but my persistent searches during the past two years have been rewarded by the discovery of several nests at Bridesburg, and two sets of eggs were collected. A set of 10 fresh eggs was taken on June 10, 1909, and another clutch of 9, highly incubated, on May 27, 1910; both of these sets are now in the writer's collection.

Of the other nests found, two were empty and were apparently never used, being probably deserted on account of being discovered before any eggs were laid, and a brood was raised in a third. In another part of the meadows, in July, 1909, a brood was raised in a marsh, where the young were seen numerous times by different persons.

Mr. Edwin C. Axe, a local taxidermist, tells me of having seen four young rails, undoubtedly of this species, at Point Breeze, a locality on the Schuylkill River, to the south of the city, in the summer of 1905 (?), and of his failure to capture any of them.—RICHARD F. MILLER, *Aramingo, Philadelphia, Pa.*

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa hamastica*) in Massachusetts.—During the latter part of the summer, more especially during late August and early September, there was quite a flight of Hudsonian Godwit along the coast. Though this bird is not distinctly very rare within the borders of this State it is so uncommon that but very few are seen or shot in any one season. This summer and fall there were more birds than there have been for a number of years. The total of those I could get definite reliable records of show 25 shot on 17 different dates. There are also records of more seen, some of which are authentic while others are questionable. The latter I have carefully excluded from the list but mention them later on. A reliable gunner at Chatham, who has been shooting for about twenty years, informed me that he had not in his experience seen or heard of their being so many around. All my records are from localities south of Boston, for I found none for the northern part of the State. It may be of interest to tabulate these below:—

Early August, 3, Chatham (two different days).

Aug. 15, flock of 10 lit off blind out of range. Were watched for some time with glasses.

Aug. 26, 2, Chatham.

Last week of August, 4 (2 more seen), Chatham (three different days).

Last week of August, 1, Plymouth.

Sept. 1, 1, Chatham.

Sept. 2, 1, Plymouth.

Sept. 5, 4, Chatham (flock of 30-35 birds).

Sept. 5, 1, West Dennis.

Sept. 6, 1, Yarmouthport.

Sept. 12, 2, Chatham.

Sept. 13, 1, East Sandwich.

Sept. 22, 1, Chatham.

Sept. 24, 1, Chatham.

Oct. 19, 1, Welfleet } found in Quincy market, Boston.
Oct. 22, 1, Welfleet }

In most cases they were lone birds and, contrary to their habits, were tame and decoyed readily. However, on September 5, during a heavy easterly storm with a downpour of rain, a flock of 30-35 birds went over our stand at Chatham. Instead of alighting, as we supposed they would do, for they appeared very much exhausted, they continued their slow flight and disappeared going due south in the heaviest part of the storm. However, a man a short way below us shot three of these birds as we watched them go over him high up, and later we found someone else above us had shot one from the same flock only a minute or two earlier. One of these men estimated that the flock contained over 40 birds, so my figures may be too low or else, after he fired the birds may have separated so that we might have seen only part of the original flock.

I believe Hudsonian Godwit are now rarely seen on the Atlantic coast in such numbers. In August, 1907, a similar flock was seen at Ipswich, out of which several birds were shot, and the gunners there considered such a flock of rare occurrence. Another gunner at Chatham reported having seen a flock of from 50-75 large birds, which from his description probably were Godwit, as he is well acquainted with all the other common shore birds. On inquiring of the M. Abbot Frazar Co., I found but two specimens in their shop being mounted. Mr. F. A. Webster of Hyde Park wrote me that but one bird had been sent to him. He said someone reported having seen a flock of birds at Winthrop, evidently Godwit, and that someone else had shot two which had been eaten. These are the only reports I was able to collect besides the actual records of those shot. Mr. T. C. Wilson of Ipswich writes that he had shot none and to his knowledge none had been seen there this year. Of the specimens I saw the majority were adult birds with distinct traces of their nuptial plumage. Unquestionably there was an unusually large flight of these birds during the early fall.—
S. PRESCOTT FAY, *Boston, Mass.*